

FINANCIAL POSITION

The passing year, as already stated, is expected to close with a net surplus of Rs. 18.50 lakhs and with a cash balance of Rs. 88.12 lakhs. The overdraft account for the purchase of food grains is expected to stand at Rs. 40 lakhs, even though during the year the extent of its operations will rise to over a crore. At the end of the year we would have a net asset of Rs. 141.54 lakhs over all liabilities.

BUDGET ESTIMATE OF 1120

I now pass on to 1120. In the coming year thanks to the plethora of money among the classes and masses, among all expect the salaried people we expect the highest peak of revenue and expenditure ever anticipated in the history of our State. The revenue and expenditure charged to revenue account stand at Rs. 218.69 lakhs and Rs. 202.09 lakhs respectively leaving a surplus of Rs. 16.60 lakhs. This is indeed a record over which we can well be proud of considering that our revenue and expenditure a decade back in 1110 stood at Rs. 97.41 and Rs. 96.84 respectively. Of course, the budget before the House has been framed on the hope that the seasonal conditions will be normal next year and the additional incomes under Income-tax, Excise, Forests, etc., brought about by the War conditions will be continued. In the State as elsewhere throughout India the auction sales of Excise shops have resulted in bumper revenues mainly on account of the higher purchasing power in the hands of the masses. Though apt to be considered as an exploitation of the poorer classes, yet this is more a method of fighting inflation and hence may prove of ultimate benefit.

Before going into details I would like to give the House a short resume of the various important measures for which the Budget of the coming year is noteworthy.

Irrigation.—First and foremost is the enhanced provisions made under irrigation and water supply both under Panchayats and Public Works and for the improvement of public health and social services. Our motto "Irrigation, more irrigation and yet more irrigation" which we referred to while presenting the Budget for 1118 is seen well reflected in the Budget before us.

Dearness Allowance.—Dearness Allowance has recently been liberalised and extended to all drawing Rs. 200 and below and its benefit has been correspondingly extended to aided school staff and pensioners. The latest scheme is expected to cost Rs. 20.51 lakhs as against Rs. 13.99 lakhs according to the older one.

Travelling Allowance.—On account of the enhancement of the rates of T.A. both ordinary and fixed the Budget estimate for the coming year provides for a total of Rs. 3.24 lakhs.

Growth of Establishment.—Another distinct feature of the Budget estimate of the coming year is the large increase in the number of temporary establishments in all departments of the State. The immense work thrown out by the War and the critical food situation has affected in a greater or lesser degree all branches of administration and it has been found impossible to cope with the ever increasing work without temporary additional staff. Apart from the Supplies department, the number of temporary hands in the several departments shows an approximate increase of about 300 hands.

The Food Supplies department had to be further strengthened in the course of the year by an additional staff of 216 hands.

Having given a bird's-eye-view of the striking features of the Budget estimate for the coming year I shall now proceed to go into some important details.

REVENUE

For the coming year we anticipate as already stated a total revenue of Rs. 218.69 lakhs which shows an increase of Rs. 9.36 lakhs over the Revised estimate and of Rs. 33.30 lakhs over the Budget estimate of the current year.

Of all the heads anticipating increases in revenue, Abkari and Ganja comes first with an abnormal increase of Rs. 21.70 lakhs over the Revised estimate. As against the usual pre-war revenue of about Rs. 10 lakhs under this head the coming year expects a revenue of Rs. 42.82 lakhs, a figure one would never have dreamed of a year back. Another head showing appreciable increase over the Revised estimate is Railway which has been brought about by an all round heavier traffic. There are a few more heads showing increases in revenue and I do not propose to tire the House by repeating them here as they are explained in the Memorandum.

Against these increases there are certain heads of revenue which anticipate falls to a total extent of—Rs. 15.02 lakhs as compared with the Revised estimate. Miscellaneous is the most prominent head anticipating a fall of Rs. 5.25 lakhs. This is mainly due to the absence of any substantial revenue from the Hill Paddy Cultivation measures since the scheme of cultivation